

drafted into the U.S. Army. He served with the all-Black 366th Combat Infantry Regiment. In charge of discipline and recreation at Fort Devens, in Massachusetts, Brooke defended enlisted men in military court cases.

For his leadership during 195 days in combat in Italy, he was awarded the Bronze Star and promoted to captain. He also received the Distinguished Service Award.

Motivated by his experience in the army, Brooke enrolled in Boston University Law School in 1946, and became editor of the Boston University Law Review. He earned an LLB in 1948 and an LLM in 1949 and began his private law practice in Roxbury, after declining offers to join other firms, including an offer from his father to begin a father and son practice in Washington, DC. Friends encouraged Brooke to run for political office. His first efforts to enter politics on the Republican slate in 1950 and 1952 were promising, but unsuccessful.

After those bids for office, he increased his involvement with community affairs, and became active with various groups, including the Boston branch of the NAACP and the Greater Boston Urban League, the Boy Scouts of America and the American Veterans of WW II. He also focused on his law practice during that time. In 1960 he ran for Massachusetts' Secretary of State and became the first African American to be nominated by a major party for a statewide office in Massachusetts—considered quite an accomplishment since there were only 93,000 black residents in the state. He received over one million votes, but did not win that election. In 1962, without the support of Republican party leaders who had endorsed his candidacy for lower offices earlier, he won the election to the office of Attorney General and became the first African American to be elected as a state's attorney general.

As Massachusetts' Attorney General, he battled corruption in government and targeted organized crime. He proposed laws that protected consumers, struck at housing discrimination and reduced air pollution. Brooke worked closely with the Massachusetts Crime Commission and successfully conducted the massive investigation in the "Boston Strangler Case." Due to some of his seemingly conservative and unpopular stances on issues such as a black student boycott of Boston's public schools, he endured the wrath of civil rights leaders.

In 1965 he decided to seek election to the U.S. Senate. In his book, *The Challenge of Change: Crisis in Our Two-Party System*, published in 1966, he attempted to encourage his Republican Party to become more responsive to social change, and he identified discrimination against 10 percent of the country's population, due to the color of their skin, as an important issue. Edward Brooke won the election, with a margin of almost a half million votes, and became the first African American to serve since Reconstruction. (He was the third black American in the U.S. Senate and the first to win a seat in a popular election.) He served two terms—enjoying an overwhelming re-election in 1972.

Appointed by President Lyndon Johnson to the Commission on Civil Disorders, Senator Brooke's work included making recommendations for the protection of black people and civil rights workers from harassment. Later, that work was expanded to include protection against housing discrimination, which led to the 1968 Civil Rights Act. He was a strong opponent of the escalation of the Vietnam War and fought proposals that would have expanded Cold War nuclear arsenals. He also worked to improve relations with the People's Republic of China, which led to the recognition of that country.

Although he had supported Richard Nixon's campaigns in 1968 and 1972, he clashed with Nixon on several issues, including the nomination of two anti-civil rights judges to the Supreme Court. He was the first senator to call for the President's resignation during the Watergate scandal.

After Senator Brooke was defeated in the 1978 election, he resumed his law practice and headed the National Low Income Housing Coalition. Senator Brooke is the father of three and currently lives with his wife in Warrenton, Virginia. He has received over 30 honorary degrees and awards, including the NAACP Springarn Medal and the National Conference of Christians & Jews' Charles Evans Hughes Award.

Throughout his career, Senator Brooke has endeavored to make America a better place for all Americans. His efforts and service to the commonwealth of Massachusetts and the United States were recognized recently, when a state courthouse in Massachusetts was named the Edward W. Brooke courthouse. He thus became the first black American to have a state courthouse named in his honor.

LAMAR UNIVERSITY

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 12, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, today I take pride in sharing with you a grand and historic milestone for the State of Texas, specifically the Second Congressional District. Today, Madam Speaker, Lamar University's Mary and John Gray Library commemorates its fiftieth year as a federal depository. Lamar University, as well as I take great pleasure in celebrating and honoring the Mary and John Gray Library's steadfast dedication to providing and safeguarding the citizens' of Texas right to know.

The Federal Library Depository Program was created over one hundred and forty years ago with the sole purpose of keeping America informed by treasuring, producing, and distributing the Federal government information. The Mary and John Gray Library carries on this very valid and noble duty by being the only Federal depository within the region. The library plays a vital link between the government and Texas citizens. With its dedicated staff readily available to help students and Southeast Texans obtain governmental information, the Mary and John Gray Library collects, maintains, and preserves over sixty-four percent of the documents made available by the Federal government.

Ground was broken for the library in 1973. The eight story structure was constructed to be a visible monument for Lamar University. With the two main goals of expressing deserved appreciation for past services and that the name be inspirational for the future greatness of Lamar University, the library was officially dedicated in honor of Mary and John Gray on April 26, 1976. To this day it continues to be a fount of scholarly information.

The library teaches information gathering skills to promote and foster academic success, along with adding essential information for those wishing to continue their educational learning. By developing appropriate learning collections, it is able to provide efficient services within a friendly, relaxed, and educational

environment. It continues to provide leadership for campus information policy.

Madam Speaker, I join the citizens of the Second Congressional District in extolling Lamar University and the Mary and John Gray Library on realizing its goal of creating a depository that fosters, preserves, and maintains the American public's right to know. Lamar University is appreciated by the good citizens of the South East Texas.

That is just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO THROGS NECK LITTLE LEAGUE

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 12, 2007

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a number of my constituents, the Throgs Neck Little League team of Bronx, NY. I wish to recognize the Throgs Neck Little League for celebrating their 55th anniversary this year as a community association dedicated to improving the lives of countless youth. The commitment and contributions of coaches, families, and loyal fans deserve to be acknowledged and these community members commended for their steadfast devotion to this organization.

Madam Speaker, I join to congratulate the Throgs Neck Little League for their achievements thus far and I wish them continued luck and many wins ahead in future seasons.

RECOGNIZING THE PASCO COUNTY, FLORIDA FAIR ON ITS 60TH AN- NIVERSARY CELEBRATION

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 12, 2007

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Pasco County, Florida for hosting a fun and exciting annual fair for the past 60 years. While the first year of the Fair was not until 1947, Pasco County consistently won first place with its community booth at the Florida State Fair throughout the early 1940s. Partly due to Pasco County's success, the State Fair instituted a rule change that prohibited one county from winning first place more than three consecutive years.

Because of the rule change, prominent San Antonio rancher D. E. "Dan" Cannon formed a group to establish a county fair. Joined by Pasco County's agricultural agent Jimmy Higgins, Dade City businessmen Joe Collura, George Nikolai and Bob Williams began searching for property to host the Fair. Eventually finding 40 acres with a rolling hillside just west of Dade City, the group met in City Hall to raise the necessary funds to purchase the land.

On April 7, 1947, the Pasco County Fair Association was chartered for the purpose of hosting an annual fair. In the early days, they borrowed the midway rides from the Florida State Fair and drove to Tampa to disassemble the rides, deliver them to Dade City on the back of Dan Cannon's milk truck and then reassemble them on site. When the fair was